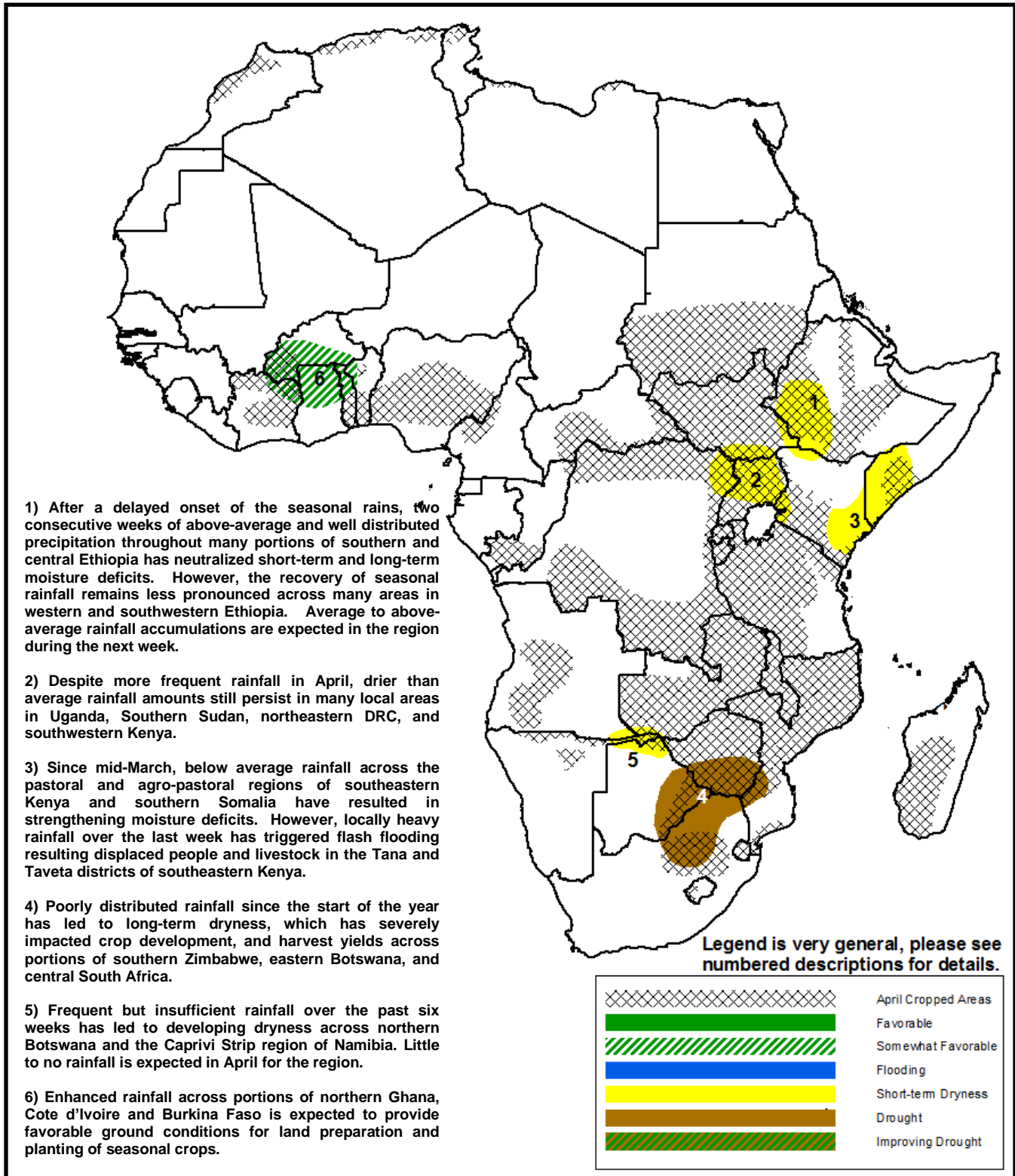


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET April 19 – April 25, 2012

- Above average rainfall since the start of April has continued to help mitigate seasonal dryness throughout many local areas in East Africa.



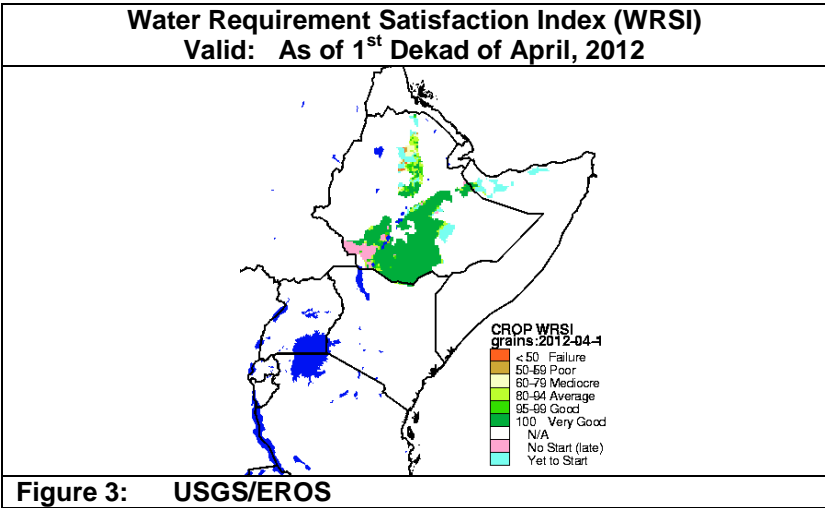
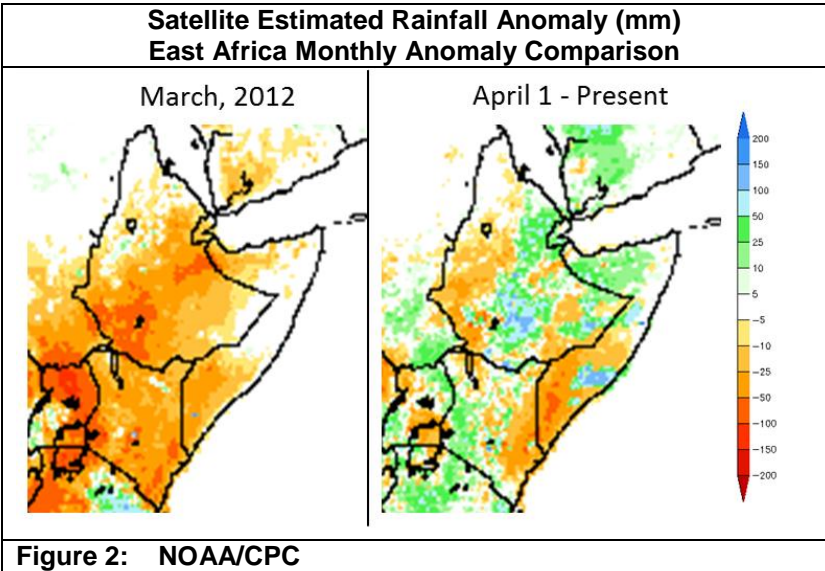
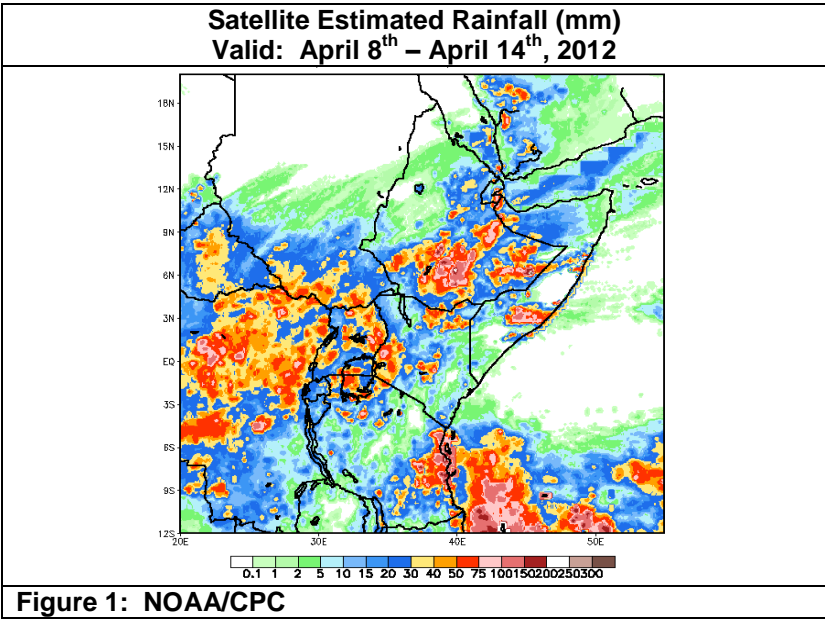
Relief to dryness continues across the Greater Horn.

For the second consecutive week in April, moderate to locally heavy rainfall was received across the Greater Horn of Africa. Across much of Ethiopia, seven day rainfall accumulations ranging between 25-100mm were received across the eastern Oromiya, Southern Nations Nationalities, and People's Region (SNNPR), Dire Dawa and Somali regions of Ethiopia. The highest weekly rainfall amounts in excess of 100mm were received just south of the Ethiopian capital (**Figure 1**). Further south, moderate to high rainfall amounts were also observed across portions of Uganda and southwestern Kenya, with lighter totals observed in the central and eastern provinces of Kenya. In Somalia, locally heavy rains (>50mm) were observed in the Shabelle region during the last seven days.

Since the beginning of April, much of East Africa saw the return of heavy rainfall following a very poor rainfall distribution observed during the month of March. Analysis of monthly precipitation anomalies between March and April show a substantial reversal in the anomaly pattern, with increased rains and moisture suggesting the beginning of a seasonal recovery (**Figure 2**). In the last two weeks, positive precipitation anomalies ranging between 10-50mm have been observed across much of central and eastern Ethiopia, with the highest month-to-date rainfall surpluses (>50mm) observed in the Oromiya, eastern SNNP, and the highland areas of Ethiopia.

These rainfall surpluses are expected to provide much needed ground moisture that are likely to benefit the development of seasonal crops. Water requirement satisfaction analyses also reflect favorable conditions during the first dekad of April (**Figure 3**). Further south, the above-average rainfall in April is also expected to relieve many drier portions of Uganda, southwestern Kenya, and parts of Somalia. However, the seasonal rainfall recovery appears less pronounced throughout portions of western Ethiopia, as well as across portions of eastern Kenya and southern Somalia, where moderate moisture deficits have been sustained since March.

For the upcoming Outlook period, model forecasts suggest a continuation of average to above-average rainfall. Weekly precipitation amounts ranging between 20-50mm, with locally heavier amounts (>50mm) expected for southwestern Ethiopia, southwestern Kenya and Uganda. Many local areas in both southern and northern Somalia are also expected to receive enhanced rainfall during the upcoming week.



Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned. Questions or comments about this product may be directed to Wassila.Thiaw@noaa.gov or 1-301-763-8000 x7566. Questions about the USAID FEWSNET activity may be directed to Gary Eilerts, USAID Program Manager for FEWSNET, 1-202-219-0500 or geilerts@usaid.gov.